United Nations A/71/944–S/2017/523

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
23 June 2017
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 34
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our letter 548/2017 dated 16 March 2017 (A/71/1846-S/2017/228), in which we informed you of the grave threats being made by Israel against the people, infrastructure and armed forces of Lebanon, I should like to inform you of the following:

- Israel has been conducting a systematic slander campaign against the efforts being made by Lebanon, in conjunction with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), to maintain stability in southern Lebanon and to implement the provisions of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). Most recently, Israel has put forward false claims about the presence of armed fighters and weapons in villages in southern Lebanon. Those claims have been disproven by daily patrols conducted by UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army, and by fixed observer positions throughout the South Litani Sector, which have not documented any of the activities or movements alleged by Israel.

- It is clear that these false Israeli claims are designed to provide cover for hostile acts and ongoing provocations being committed by Israel against Lebanese civilians and units of UNIFIL, Observer Group Lebanon and the Lebanese Army. We have been documenting Israel's continuing violations of resolution 1701 (2006) in letters to the Security Council and the Secretary-General ever since that resolution was adopted. The annexed table shows that there were 64 air violations, 80 sea violations and 31 ground violations committed by Israel during the month of May 2017 alone. That is not to mention Israel's ongoing occupation of northern Ghajar and surrounding areas, in flagrant violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and the sovereignty of Lebanon, as well as Israel's occupation of the Shab'a Farms and the Kafr Shuba hills. Israel also persists in encroaching on the daily lives, livelihoods and security of Lebanese civilians with surveillance towers and listening devices all along the southern border. These reprehensible practices demonstrate yet again Israel's hostile intentions towards Lebanon, and are proof not only of its violation of resolution 1701 (2006), but of its lack of regard for the Charter of

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the United Nations and the principles of international law and international humanitarian law.

- Lebanon believes that is imperative to condemn in the strongest terms and without delay the escalating threats made by Israel. Those threats should subsequently be highlighted in the periodic reports on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and categorically denounced, and Israel should be called on to carry out all its obligations under that resolution, because Israel's violations threaten to undermine the tranquillity that Lebanon strives so hard to maintain along its southern border, and present a clear threat to security and peace in the region and, consequently, throughout the world.

- The Lebanese Government reiterates that it has implemented all of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) from the moment that the resolution was adopted. The Government once again calls on the international community to put pressure on Israel and compel it to implement fully that resolution.

I ask you to take every measure necessary to deter Israel from continuing to make grave threats against the security of my country and the safety of its people and civil and official institutions, and from committing serious violations of my country's sovereignty, and to compel Israel to implement all the provisions of resolution 1701 (2006).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations during May 2017

The Israeli enemy committed 175 violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) in the month of May, including 64 air violations, 80 sea violations and 31 land violations.

Air violations				*Sea violations*	*Land violations*				
Military jet	*Reconnaissance*	*Helicopter*	*Total*		*Military acts of aggression*	*Field violations*	*Total*	*Overall total*	*Previous month's violations*
				Violation of Lebanese territorial waters, directing of searchlights, release of charges, sounding warning sirens, broadcasting over loudspeakers, directing foul language and threats at fishermen, releasing divers into Lebanese territorial waters		Pointing of tank cannons at Lebanese territory, pointing of firearms at Observer Group Lebanon, attempted abduction of a Lebanese shepherd and taking his livestock into the occupied Shab'a Farms, pointing cameras, lighting fires inside occupied territory that spread into Lebanese territory, deployments, building roads, explosions heard from inside the occupied Shab'a Farms			
10	**53**	**1**	**64**	**80**	**–**	**31**	**31**	**175**	**103**